

Testimony of Patrick Woodcock
Before the Joint Standing Committees on Environment and Natural Resources
In Support of L.D. 2037
“An Act to Update the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Allowances”
January 21, 2026

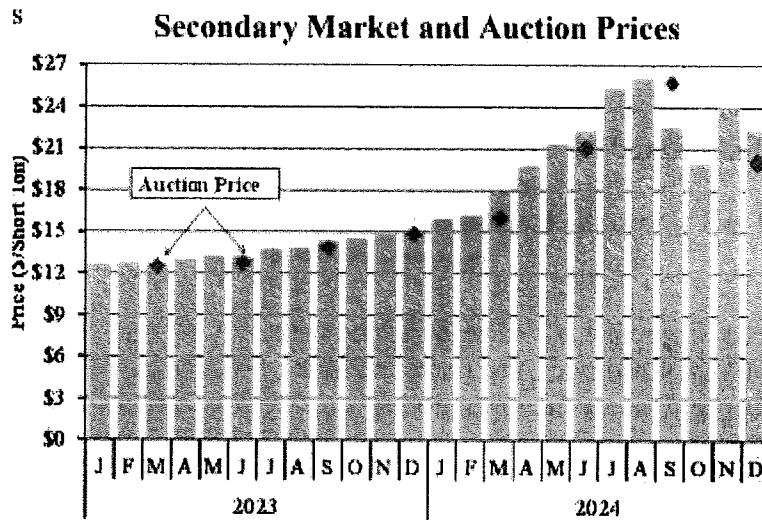
Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Patrick Woodcock. I am here on behalf of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, representing a network of 5,000+ small to large businesses. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on L.D. 2037, “An Act to Update the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Allowances.” I want to thank Representative Kessler for bringing this legislation on behalf of the Department of Environmental Protection, which would update Maine’s allowance allocations under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and maintain participation in the program as part of the RGGI states triennial review.

I want to begin by saying that we need to be thoughtful with our climate policies and ensure that we do not create additional costs on Maine ratepayers. We have concerns about several specific ratepayer supported programs from the Renewable Portfolio Standard and the Net-Energy Billing program. In aggregate they not only add to the cost of doing business in Maine, but they also create a disincentive to transition our transportation and building sector towards electrification.

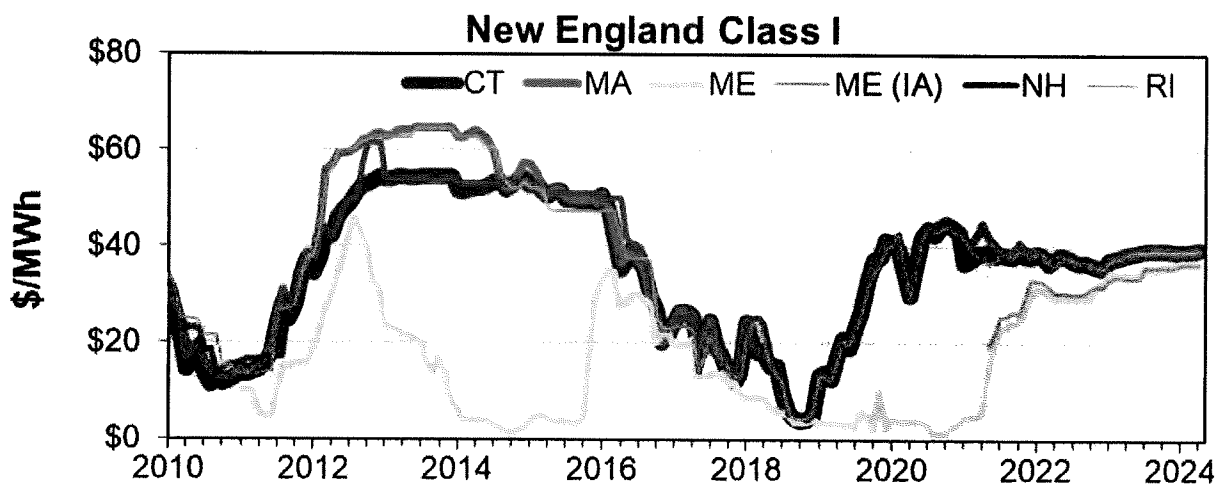
I want to stress that unlike the RPS and the NEB program, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a regional compliance program. The cap-and-trade program and requirements to purchase allowances for carbon emissions creates an increase in the wholesale pricing across New England as virtually all generators are required to purchase allowances that adds to the cost of production. It would be virtually impossible to avoid the cost of compliance without a majority of New England states electing not to participate in the program. As a result, we would recommend that we continue to participate in the program and review other methods to reduce the costs of electricity in Maine and specifically on the RPS and NEB programs.

Finally, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce believes it is important to maintain stable energy efficiency funding and continues to believe that from insulation and air source heat pumps that the state can continue to save energy bills by investments in those programs. The participation in RGGI supports stable funding at Efficiency Maine Trust, which is the state administrator of statewide efficiency programs.

We encourage the Committee to support L.D. 2037.



From Potomac Advisors for RGGI's 2024 Annual Report



From National Berkely Laboratories